

consultation views to draft directions (the carers assessment (Scotland) directions 2014)

1. I am a parent carer and have been for 19 years. I still have not had a carers assessment. I was promised one twice this year. I like the idea of a Carers Impact Assessment that I think was trialled in Manchester as instead of recording what you can do it records how you have been impacted.

I did get given a form years ago but it was so depressing as you realised how much you had lost in life becoming a carer.

2. bullet 2. Strongly agree with this as carers trying to work get assumed not to be still doing care at home and many job seekers, tax credit, criteria in help do not recognise some forms works against others to seek help i.e. I also have a younger child a young carer who misses recognition and the education criteria mean we both miss financial help.

4. paperwork and finances can seem daunting and do depress some carers. Carers need help with financial planning and budgeting especially as miss being recognised if they are increasing lone parent carers. Benefit changes mean carers are topping up for their cared for ones

6. can there be carer social workers so needs and advocacy can be specialised? Also why are carers always put to groups or charities, if carers really matter, then create these Carer SW posts?

7. So interpretation is left to LA's ? This could mean no change or change guided by contracted out agency needs. There should be a need to input to an E-SAY type review.

Re the draft changes3. 4. Need to include impacts on carers not just their ability to care, i.e. I have had to lose financially, I have had to ignore my health needs as it would affect my job prospects and my cared for ones need me to work, I have had to lose my access to legal rights as my need for law I had to give up as my cared for ones need to have stability, I feel I am impacted under Act Against Harm by both services and my cared for ones needs where a carer advocate or impact assessment may have got me help to have my say and recompense for a totally normal and unrelated care matter

3.5 impacts = carers legal health and ability to access justice without reverse impact on cared for ones, carers own health ability to be open about health without reverse impact on the cared for ones, other external factors, human rights and inclusion access, younger ones needs and impacts of education ignoring "unofficial exclusion" (Highland Children's Forum), not just drug and alcohol but impacting social/OCD/impacts on whole household and freedoms on others and safety of hidden carer if criteria says not

caring the required hours, it does not mention type of, fluctuation of or lack of supports – only in the first paragraph does it mention can care be done without supports (are those “supports” recognising life impacts as carers not only care or work but have the same issues as other people but with more outcomes or impacts.

It should also recognise breakdown in caring service relationships

Thank you